

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY

Of the Western Anti-Slavery Society assembled in Friends' meeting house Salem, O. August 27th, 1853.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Benj. Bown.

"I am an abolitionist" was sung by the audience.

The President made a few remarks congratulating the abolitionists upon their assembling in a society capacity, and exhorting them to all be faithful to principle.

On motion the following committees were appointed:

Business Committee.—Stephen S. Foster, J. W. Walker, Abby K. Foster, Abm. Brook, Lydia Irish, J. Elizabeth Jones, M. R. Robinson, Parker Pillsbury, Josephine Griffing.

Finance Committee.—A. K. Foster, Lot Holmes, James Barnaby, Thos. Chandler, K. G. Thomas.

Bugle Committee.—Richard Merritt, Ezekiel Curtis, Chas. Griffing, Emily Robinson, Isaac Treecott.

On motion, the chair was requested to appoint a Nominating committee of nine. He asked permission to defer reporting their names until the afternoon session, which request was acceded to.

Parker Pillsbury, from the Business Committee reported resolutions No. 1, and spoke upon them at considerable length. Before any action was taken upon their adoption, the meeting, on motion, adjourned to 2 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION. The chair reported the following named persons to constitute the

Nominating Committee. Jas. Barnaby, Isaac Brooks, Elizabeth Griffing, Chas. Griffing, John Gordon, Eliza Holmes, Wm. Myers, L. Maria Giddings, Isaac Treecott.

On motion, the Hale family were invited to sing, who thereupon gave "We are coming, we are coming."

Business Committee reported resolutions Nos. 2, 3, and 4.

The discussion was then resumed on resolutions No. 1. J. W. Walker and S. S. Foster advocated their adoption. "The slave auction," was sung by the Hale family.

A letter from Amos Gilbert, addressed to the meeting was then read, as the writer requested it to be presented to the society at an early day. It was directed to be published with the proceedings.

The annual report being called for, it was read by the corresponding Secretary, M. R. Robinson. On motion to approve the proceedings of the Executive Committee as set forth in their annual report, Parker Pillsbury and A. K. Foster, spoke in favor of the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Treasurer presented his report, to which was appended the report of the auditing committee appointed by the Ex. Com., which reports were accepted.

Voted, That when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at 8 o'clock to-morrow morning, and conclude the morning session at 11 o'clock, to allow Friends to hold their usual forenoon meeting.

The Com. on arrangements was directed to secure a place in which to hold an Anti-Slavery meeting, and to provide speaking from 11 o'clock to 1 to-morrow.

Notice was given by the Com. of arrangements that a concert by the Hale family and others would be given on Saturday evening in the Town Hall, the proceeds to go into the treasury of the Western Anti-Slavery Society.

The Hales sang "Freedom, honor, and native land," after which the meeting adjourned.

August 28th. MORNING SESSION.—"God speed the right" was sung. The Com. of arrangements reported the proceeds of the concert as amounting to between \$32 and \$33. By consent of the meeting, the following resolution was introduced before proceeding with the further consideration of the resolutions under discussion at adjournment last evening.

Resolved, That the thanks of this society, be, and are hereby tendered to the Hale family of Mogadore, Chas. Thorne of Salem, John Peck of Pittsburgh, and Henry Boone of Cleveland, for the "material aid" furnished the Society in proceeds of the concert they gave on the evening of the 27th inst., as well as for the moral influence which must result from the songs selected for the occasion.

Adopted unanimously.

The discussion of resolutions No. 1, was then resumed, and participated in by Parker Pillsbury and Jos. Barker.

Business Committee reported resolutions 5, 6, 7, and 8.

The society concluded to let the remarks of the speakers embrace in whole or in part, the subject matter of all the resolutions reported. The discussion was then further continued by Joseph Barker until near the hour of adjournment.

On motion, the subject of Finance was made the order of business for 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Adjourned to 1 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION. "O that will be joyful" was sung.

The Nominating committee reported as follows, and on motion, the report was accepted, and the persons therein named accordingly elected.

PRESIDENT.
Benj. Bown, Ohio

VICE PRESIDENTS.
Abm. Brook, Ohio
Josephine Griffing, Ohio
Ass. Davis, Iowa
Silas Pupoon, Illinois
Thos. Chandler, Michigan
J. T. Hurst, Penna.
J. P. Davis, Indiana

Treasurer.—Joel McMillan,
Cor. Secretary.—M. R. Robinson,
Rec. Secretary.—Benj. S. Jones,

COUNSELLORS.
Lewis Morgan,
Jas. Barnaby,
Sarah Bown,
K. G. Thomas,
Isaac Treecott,
Pierce Garretson,
Lydia Irish,

On motion, the vote making the subject of Finance the order of business for 3 o'clock, was reconsidered, and the report of the Financial Committee was presented, and its members proceeded to the collection of funds.

A. K. Foster, M. R. Robinson and Parker Pillsbury spoke of the need of liberal contributions, and the duty of the friends of the cause to give unparagonably, especially at this time, in order to aid in carrying successfully forward, the system of Western operations which the liberality of Charles F. May of Boston, has enabled the American Anti-Slavery Society to so vigorously conduct. Jacob Heiler urged Free Soilers to come forward and aid by their contributions to a work of agitation proposed, and thus build up a public sentiment which should hasten the destruction of slavery.

Resolutions reported by the Business Committee. S. S. Foster spoke at considerable length in relation to the impolicy and inefficiency of political action as an agent in the abolition of slavery, and of the universal corruption of political parties.

Voted, That when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at the Town Hall to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

The Com. of Arrangements were directed to provide speakers for a meeting to be held at the Town Hall at 7 o'clock this evening, and to have the room prepared for the same.

Jos. Barker followed S. S. Foster, partly in reply to the points the former had presented, and partly to admit their truth—he further urged abolitionists of all kinds to contribute to the funds of the Society.

Adj. 27th. MORNING SESSION.—"Hark! a voice from heaven proclaiming," was sung.

A letter from Francis Barry was read, and ordered to be published with the proceedings.

Bugle Com. presented the subject of the paper and remarks were made in relation to it, by James Barnaby and S. S. Foster. Song, "Come join the Abolitionists," was sung.

A proposition was made to have one hundred persons pledge themselves to obtain, or pay for two additional subscribers each, to the Bugle, within the ensuing three months whereupon, not only the one hundred, but two hundred and four names were obtained, and additional subscribers for single copies were secured, making the whole number secured, ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-SIX.

The Com. on Bugle presented the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, That this Society recommend the Executive Committee to adopt improvement in a condition of subscription to the Anti-Slavery Bugle.

Song by the Hale Family, "Come join the abolitionists."

On motion, adjourned to two o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION. The Com. on Finance urged payment on the pledges made yesterday or on those remaining unpaid for the last year, in order that they might make a more complete report.

On motion, the resolutions reported by the Business Committee, from 1 to 9, inclusive, were then read, and it was voted to take them all up for discussion. Jos. Barker spoke at considerable length in defense of the Free Soil party, and in explanation of the cause of his desire to add to his moral influence against slavery, political action for its overthrow. The discussion upon the resolutions was continued by S. S. Foster and P. Pillsbury.

The question being taken on the resolutions, they were all adopted.

Josephine S. Griffing offered resolution No. 10, which was, on motion, adopted.

The Finance Committee reported in part, and were directed to report in full to the Executive Committee.

Then adjourned without day.

BENJ. BOWN, PRST.
BENJ. S. JONES, Sec.

*They have reported as directed, amount collected (exclusive of receipts for the Bugle), \$253.11, in pledges, \$125.79.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The recurrence of another anniversary, imposes upon the Executive Committee of the Western Anti-Slavery Society, the duty of reporting their proceedings for the last year. The Committee will at this time limit the narrative to their more important acts, leaving the details and the discussion of their principles to other occasions.

The Committee have employed as their Agents, during the past year, J. W. Walker, C. S. S. and Josephine S. Griffing, John F. Selby and Giles B. Stebbins. The territory over which these Agents operated, is embraced within N. W. Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan. The society has warm and active friends in Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa, but to them we have been able to extend aid only through the Anti-Slavery Bugle. The paper has a limited circulation in these states last named, and is by our friends warmly welcomed as an anti-slavery instrumentality. From all these localities, the committee have received repeated and most urgent solicitations for aid. But our limited means and the limited number of our lecturers has compelled us reluctantly to decline any efforts in their behalf, notwithstanding their assurance that such efforts could not fail of meeting the most marked and encouraging success.

Immediately after the last Anniversary, Mr. Pillsbury, the agent of the American A. S. Society spent some two or three weeks in Crawford Co. Pa. and in the N. E. part of this state, where he proceeded in company with Mr. and Mrs. Griffing to Michigan. There they spent several weeks, very acceptably to the friends there and with advantage to the cause. Their labors in that state, were closed by a general Convention at Adrian, which by invitation, J. W. Walker, also attended. At this Convention a State Central Committee was appointed, to direct and prosecute the Anti-Slavery operations of the state. Between this Committee and our own there has existed a friendly correspondence, and much co-operation has been practicable.

Soon after this Convention, Giles B. Stebbins, of New York, visited Michigan as our agent. He spent nearly three months in the state, under the direction of the Michigan Central Committee. From that committee we have received the most abundant assurance of the ability, fidelity and usefulness of Mr. Stebbins's labors. He visited quite a number of places and was every where well received.

In Western Pennsylvania, John F. Selby, has labored during several months of the year and his labors have received high commendations from the Abolitionists of that region. Charles and Josephine Griffing, also spent two months there, with great advantage to the cause. Besides which, Mr. Pillsbury has lately held several successful meetings in that region.

To labors in our own State, J. W. Walker has devoted the time he has spent as our agent the past year. His labors have been attended with their usual good success. Mr. Pillsbury, Mr. and Mrs. Griffing and J. F. Selby, have also visited various places in the State, and all have largely contributed to arouse public attention in favor of freedom.

In connection with the American Anti-Slavery Society, arrangements have been made for more extended and vigorous efforts the coming Autumn. Michigan, Indiana and Illinois will probably be visited, and the most promising portions thoroughly canvassed, by most efficient agents. In Ohio, too, we hope to have the presence and aid of some of our most distinguished eastern friends in some important conventions.

Large Anti-Slavery Conventions have not been as numerous the last, as during some previous years. Our lecturers have passed quietly around, holding meetings in town and country—coming in direct and familiar contact with the people—fairly canvassing objections and thoroughly discussing important questions connected with the enterprise,

and introducing anti-slavery publications. An abiding interest thus created, and those who thus come to embrace the cause may be expected to be permanently and reliably its friends.

A convention of more than ordinary importance, however, was held in Cincinnati, in April last, by the energetic efforts of the Cincinnati Sewing Circle. Like its predecessors, it was designed to be free to all classes of anti-slavery persons, and with great firmness and liberality, its purpose was faithfully executed. A large majority of the members of that association are the especial friends of political anti-slavery; nevertheless, with entire cordiality, they especially invited Mr. Garrison, to their free platform, and stood by him, in the utterance of his most radical anti-slavery sentiments. It is also due to the political anti-slavery men who participated in that free meeting, to say that they exhibited an appreciation of free thought and free speech, which showed them intelligently and earnestly the friends of universal freedom, exhibiting a marked contrast to some of the professionally anti-slavery leaders among the churchmen, who stood aloof from the convention, and have since employed themselves in misrepresenting its character, and laboring not only to place Mr. Garrison and his immediate sympathizers, but also all who will co-operate with them, in a false and odious position.

The Anti-Slavery Bugle, the last year has not increased the number of its subscribers, though many new ones have been added. This result is in consequence of the adoption of a more rigid policy regarding delinquent subscribers. The old plan of sending the paper year after year to those who neglect to pay, has not only been ruinous to our friends, but profitless to the cause. The income of the paper has, however, been somewhat increased over previous years.

The Committee having heard frequent complaints of the diminutive size of the sheet, and as the amount of intelligence is continually on the increase, and topics for discussion of indispensable importance continually multiplying beyond the capacity of the sheet to communicate to the public, the Committee, some two months ago, resolved upon an enlargement of the paper to its present size. They were encouraged to this, trusting that a spirit of improvement and progress on the part of the Committee, would be met with a corresponding disposition on the part of the abolitionists, to augment its circulation and augment its income. The paper in its improved form has already been presented to you, and you can now judge of the value of the improvement.

This enlargement has been effected at an expense of \$200 over the value of the old printing materials sold.

The expenses of publication for the last year, apart from the cost of enlargement, have been \$1778 143

Receipts on the paper \$845

Excess of expenses over receipts \$143

Something less than for any previous year.

As a means of extending our circulation, the Committee have felt it important to place the paper at the lowest possible price. Hence, as a matter of experiment, they have resolved to offer it in its enlarged form at its old price, \$1.50. As the expenses of publication are increased, the price must eventually also be advanced, unless the friends of the paper make a vigorous effort to extend its paying circulation. *Fourteen hundred* pre-paying subscribers will meet the expenses of publication the coming year. Is it unreasonable to suppose that the anti-slavery of the West will furnish us that number?

We urge upon all our subscribers pre-payment. It is better for all concerned. During the last year we have cut off delinquents with a indebtedness of several hundred dollars—perhaps double the sum necessary to make up the excess of the expenditures of the paper over its receipts during that time.

For particulars regarding the receipts from all sources, the Society is referred to the Report of its Treasurer. The gross amount is \$3,597.24; exceeding the contributions of last year by about \$1,000.

This is to be sure, an insignificant sum compared with the work to be accomplished. Yet with economy in its expenditure, and a hearty good will in its workers, much good we trust has been accomplished, even with it, small as it may seem. With it, the Committee have kept in operation, quite our usual amount of lecturing agency. Have paid \$700 dollars of old debts, some of them of several years' standing. Have paid the excess of expenditures over the receipts of the paper. Have enlarged the paper to its present size, procuring new type for the publication, and are able to report the available means of the Society, exclusive of the office and other funds not now available, as entirely adequate to meet all our indebtedness. A result which at no previous time since its organization has its Committee been able to announce.

We are able to make this favorable report, in part by the liberality of a friend, who has within the last few months generously contributed \$700 to our funds, in addition to most liberal previous donations. To the Annual Fair, held at Salem, we were indebted for most opportune pecuniary aid, as also, to the Sewing Circles of Cincinnati and Louisville.

From Michigan, also, important aid has been received. The Ladies of Adrian and vicinity have been especially active in their sewing circle, which has contributed to our funds through the Salem Fair. These sources of aid, added to individual contributions, have furnished the Committee the means for prosecuting their labors.

We trust this favorable report of the financial affairs of the Society will encourage all abolitionists to contribute liberally to the continued prosecution of the work. Whatever may now be contributed, will not be absorbed in the liquidation of old debts, but will be directly applied to the establishment of the principles of freedom and justice. The magnificent proposals of aid to the West from the American Anti-Slavery Society, which our friends are here in part to receive, should stimulate us to efforts correspondingly worthy of their co-operation. Without doubt this meeting will feel itself called upon to make liberal provision for this purpose, as well as for other necessary labors.

Eleven years have passed (since the organization of our Society, and more than a score of years since the present anti-slavery movement was fairly launched; and yet the slave still robes and suffers unredressed. The master still robs and wrongs him with a murderous tyrant's hand, and our own North furnishes the guilty accomplices in the church and government, who uphold the robbery and perpetuate the wrong. Our work, therefore, Fellow Abolitionists, is still before us. Let us address ourselves to it with a new consecration, an augmented faith, and more determined labors. The work, though slow, is sure of accomplishment. Daily are new encouragements developing themselves. EARNEST, PERSISTENTLY FIDELITY IS THE PRICE OF OUR SUCCESS.

THE ANTI-SLAVERY BUGLE.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

from August 22nd, 1852, to August 27th, 1853.

Received of Publishing Agent, on subscription to A. S. Bugle, \$1433.63

On Pledges and Donations, 2163.65

Total Receipts, \$3597.28

Expenses, \$803.06

Paid to Agents, 707.64

To Editor and Pub. Agent, 827.73

To Printer, 290.00

Old Debt at Columbiana, 69.90

" " To Wm. Lightfoot, 44.32

" " To C. C. Burleigh, 19.18

Paper and Ink, for Bugle, 304.79

Press and Type, 235.72

Counterfeit money, 20.00

On Office Rent, Tax, Agents, Traveling Expenses, Postage, Fuel, Repairs, Pre-paying Bills and Circulars, and other Incidentals, 158.02

Total Expenses, \$3583.09

Balance in Treasury, Aug. 27th, \$14.22

The indebtedness of the Society, at its last annual meeting, was near seven hundred dollars, all of which has been paid.

There is now due to M. R. Robinson, \$182.29

To Griffing, 16.50

" J. Hudson, 76.74

" J. W. Walker, 11.63

" Publishing Agent, 20.00

" J. F. Selby, 19.00

Total \$256.12

Of the 116 shares of the five dollar stock taken at the last annual meeting, twenty-two shares, amounting to \$110, remain unpaid.

Of Pledges that are two years old, \$112 remain unpaid.

J. McMillan, Treasurer of W. A. S. S.

The undersigned, appointed by the Executive Committee to audit the Treasurer's account, report that they have examined his Books, and find his account as reported above, to be correct.

BENJ. BOWN, ISAAC TREECOTT.

Aug. 27th, 1853.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That assembled to celebrate the Eleventh anniversary of the Western Anti-Slavery Society, we congratulate ourselves on the prosperity and success which have attended our enterprise the past year. That though the pulpit and the politician may still to a great extent oppose, as is their wont, the people are learning and loving our doctrine more and better. That although politicians pass Fugitive Slave Laws, and priests boldly sanction and sanctify them, the people generally trample them in the dust. That although Presidential Platforms may pledge their candidates and parties to solemn observance of compromises in behalf of slavery, and to another and silence all agitation on the subject, the compromises are nullified, and agitation shakes the nation to its centre. That in spite of blots, larn and blood-bound, the "under-ground railroad" is doing a mighty business, without countenance of trains, busting of engines, or ever running off the track. That though the popular Church is moving heaven and earth and all that is under the earth, to extend its power and dominion, it is only proving that its days are numbered and are fast finishing—and, finally, that full and free discussion is asserting itself on every subject, no matter how meretricious or time honored, that relates to the interests, rights or responsibilities of the race of man.

Resolved, therefore, That we gladly give ourselves anew for our glorious conflict, cheered by past achievements, and greatly encouraged by the future prospects, doubly assured of the righteousness of our cause, and never doubting of our final and perfect triumph.

Resolved, That the anti-slavery enterprise is but a continuation of the Revolution of 1776—a practical application of its doctrine that "All men are created equal," to universal man—a new and better disposition, succeeding the blood and human sacrifice of that which went before, and which only established the liberty of the strong to enslave the weak, under the name of republican freedom—and whose objects are to be secured, not by violence and slaughter, but by a mental and moral regeneration of the people, through the proclamation of truth, and the practice of love and good will to men.

Resolved, That the formation of any political party for the overthrow of slavery, abates nothing from the high character or importance of our movement, the work of politics being at best, but the framing of the public sentiment regenerated and reformed by our presentation of the truth, into statutes; and not the regenerating of the public conscience and character.

Resolved, That so long as political action confines itself to its legitimate work, and does not attempt to dictate or control ours, by any application of its philosophy or method, there need be no controversy between us. But as we are to enunciate the unconditional and uncompromising doctrine of immediate and universal emancipation, calling on all to abandon the sin, and the fellowship, governmental and religious, of the sinner, we can never add to our real influence or effective force by the use of a false philosophy, or by abating in any way or degree our fidelity and devotion to our distinctive principles.

Whereas, The Constitution of the United States being a compact among all the citizens, each with all and all with each, for the performance of certain things therein specified; and whereas, among the things therein specified, are the maintenance of slavery by all the forces of the country, military, naval and financial, by the surrender of the fugitive to his master, by giving to the slaveholder a bonus of political power on his slave property; therefore,

Resolved, That to support the Constitution of the United States by an oath of allegiance to it or by voting under it, which is equivalent to such an oath, is necessarily a violation of the first principles of anti-slavery.

Resolved, That in the controversy upon the constitutional guarantees for slavery, the position and opinions of the Free Soil party are not to be learned from the declarations of private or public individuals, on their own responsibility; but from the official proceedings, the resolutions, speeches and addresses of committees, caucuses and conventions, representing the party, and from the declarations of members of Congress, when before their southern Confessors they make solemn professions of loyalty to the Constitution and Union, with slavery cursing and corrupting it, not only in the South, but in all the States.

Resolved, That until the leaders and representative men of the Free Soil party shall, in committees, caucuses, conventions, Congress, and everywhere, assume and maintain that the Constitution is a thoroughly anti-slavery instrument, denying the legal existence of slavery everywhere in State or Territory, and holding every slave claimant as a kidnaper and pirate, to be elevated to the gallows rather than the Presidency, we must still regard the party as alike responsible for slavery with the Whig and Democratic parties; and an oath to support the Constitution, or vote for another to take that oath, immorality, resulting to an endorsement and direct support of slavery, with all its crimes, curses and calamities, wherever in the Union it is established or exists.

Resolved, That the slaveholder is a respectable, a popular, and an honored man; and

Whereas, Slavery will disappear so soon as slaveholders shall lose the respect and confidence of the masses, and be placed in the ranks of other criminals; therefore,

Resolved, That those who countenance and sustain such churches, such governments, and such other institutions as give a position of honor, of honesty, or of toleration even, to the slaveholder, are giving to the institution its most efficient aid and support.

Resolved, That the recent slave case in Cincinnati—the first execution of the infamous slave catching law in Ohio—reveals, if possible, more clearly than any preceding one, the entire supremacy of the slave power, and the servility and vassalage of Ohio and of all the nominally free States.

Resolved, That it is a mockery of truth, and an insult to the commonest understanding, to call Ohio a free State, while a husband and father, innocent of crime, may be seized by foreign ruffians, in his own home, dragged from his wife and helpless infants, carried bound over our public thoroughfares, confined in our hotels, incarcerated in our jails, and driven heavily manacled through the streets of our Queen City, the whole sanctioned and confirmed by the supreme law of the land, as announced and expounded by the highest judicial authority of the nation.

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